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Monday, February 1, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

DIVERSITY AT THE SAG AWARDS

The Oscars are looking extra white now this year. 18

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ANSWERS ON THE HORIZON?

Nine months after the deadly Amtrak #188 derailment, a highly anticipated report from the NTSB is due as investigators work to determine the cause of the crash. 6



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LAST 2 ESCAPEES CAUGHT

1 The last two fugitives who broke out of a California jail last week were arrested on a tip from a man who saw their stolen van in the parking lot of a San Francisco Whole Foods supermarket, authorities said. The manhunt came to an end when Hossein Nayeri, 37, and Jonathan Tieu, 20, were apprehended in San Francisco's park district about 375 miles north of the lockup. **REUTERS**



MOTORCYCLE EXPO FATAL

2 A battle involving gunfire and knives erupted at a Denver motorcycle exposition on Saturday afternoon, leaving at least one person dead and sending seven people to the hospital, authorities said. There were no immediate arrests in the mayhem, which took place at the Colorado Motorcycle Expo at the National Western Complex, Denver Police Chief Robert White said at a news conference. The event was canceled for Sunday. Police were talking to several witnesses and a "person of interest" about the incident. **REUTERS**

NO FURTHER PUNISHMENT

3 Defense Secretary Ashton Carter has decided not to impose further punishment on David Petraeus, a former U.S. military commander and CIA director who admitted sharing classified information with his mistress, according to a letter seen by Reuters. The short letter was sent by Stephen Hedger, the assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs, and the decision is in line with an Army review. **REUTERS**



WARM WEATHER SKATING

7 Hundreds of people flocked to the RiverRink at Penn's Landing to enjoy the warm, springlike weather with a skate on Sunday.



MAIN PHOTO BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

STABBER SURRENDERS

4 Police said the man who stabbed a passenger aboard the #66 bus on the 4100 block of Torresdale Avenue on Friday just before 2 p.m. turned himself in Sunday. The argument arose when the suspect refused to exit the bus despite not having bus fare. The suspect stabbed the passenger in the head and body before fleeing. **SAM NEWHOUSE**



FAKE COPS ROB SHOP

5 The owner of DTMS Detailing in Northeast Philly reported that he was robbed of \$1,200 by thieves identifying themselves as police officers on Saturday night. Two men ran in around 8 p.m. yelling "cops," zip-tied the victim, and demanded money and drugs. The offenders then took \$1,200 from the victim's wallet, searched the shop without finding more cash then said, "We are going to get the warrant," and fled the scene on foot, police said. **SAM NEWHOUSE**

PRISON LESBIANS

6 Former Real Housewife of New Jersey Teresa Giudice is out of prison and has an upcoming memoir about the experience serving time for loan fraud, "Turning the Tables: From Housewife to Inmate and Back Again." Giudice writes she was shocked by widely prevalent lesbian sex in the women's prison, and that her cell was nicknamed "the Boom Boom Room." **SAM NEWHOUSE**



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Actor and comedian Bill Cosby arrives for his arraignment on sexual assault charges at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Elkins Park last month. GETTY IMAGES

Odds are against dismissal of Cosby's sex assault case: Experts

The first major hearing in the Cosby case is scheduled for Feb. 2.

Bill Cosby's lawyers may face difficulty in convincing a Pennsylvania judge this week to throw out sexual assault charges in light of what the disgraced comedian's defense team characterizes as a decade-old non-prosecution deal, legal experts said.

Cosby is due back in court in Norristown on Tuesday, after the 78-year-old entertainer was charged last month with sex assault in 2004. The alleged victim said Cosby had plied her with alcohol and drugs.

It is the only criminal prosecution that Cosby has ever faced, even though dozens of women have accused him of assault, in some cases decades ago.

The hearing outside Philadelphia will center on the defense's argument that the charges violate an agreement struck in 2005 with then-Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor. Cosby's lawyers said Castor promised

not to prosecute the comedian if he agreed to testify in a civil case brought by his accuser, Andrea Constand.

Castor has backed that account in an email sent in September to his successor as district attorney. In that email, Castor said he had reached a binding deal with Cosby's lawyers.

The defense has not produced any written agreement, a point made by prosecutors in seeking to undermine Castor's story.

"Cosby had good attorneys," said Anne Poulin, a law professor at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. "If they had negotiated something, I think they would have gotten something in writing."

But in court papers filed on Thursday, Cosby's lawyers said prosecutors had waited so long to bring charges that evidence verifying the agreement had disappeared.

Cosby's former lawyer has since died, and documents that might have corroborated the deal have been lost, they said.

Cosby's lawyers did not return a call for further comment. **REUTERS**

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BRIEFS

Man yells, 'Shoot me, I'm black,' at cops before moving to attack them

A woman was charged with assault for striking three Philly police officers who were attempting to break up a late-night brawl outside an after-hours lounge in Bustleton, police said.

The incident occurred around 2:48 a.m. Sunday after security guards at the Good Life Lounge on the 9800 block of Bustleton Ave. called 911 to report the fight and heard several gunshots.

Officers arrived to find a group of 50 to 75 people with about 25 people actively fighting.

When officers moved in to break up the individual fights, one black male reportedly

shouted, "Shoot me, shoot me, I'm black, shoot me," police said.

An officer attempted to calm down the man, who approached in a fighting stance with balled hands and was pepper-sprayed.

A black female then attempted to intervene, jumping in between the officer and the male and punching three officers. She fled on foot but was apprehended nearby.

A third male defendant ran at the cops but was arrested before he could assault them.

The female is charged with assault for attacking the three officers.

The two males are charged with riot and disorderly conduct.

The names and mugshots of the suspects were not released. **REUTERS**

Painful Varicose Veins & Swollen Legs?



Varicose veins are more than a cosmetic problem. They may lead to complications such as Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and Pulmonary Embolism (PE), both of which claim up to 300,000 lives a year in the United States.

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Amtrak crash still a mystery months later despite NTSB data dump

Thousands of pages of records from the investigation into the Amtrak #188 derailment are expected to be released Monday, but the NTSB has not yet determined the cause of the crash.



SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Nine months after the deadliest train derailment in recent history took place within Philly city limits, a long-awaited report from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on the crash is expected to be issued Monday.

Eight people died in the crash. Hundreds were

injured, including Philly chef Eli Kulp, who was left paralyzed after his spinal cord was severed in the wreck.

But authorities and regulators have failed to provide any explanation as to why Amtrak #188 leaped off the rails at 106 mph on curved rails around Port Richmond, where the speed limit was 50 mph, with hundreds of people aboard.

The likeliest explanation is still believed to be human error on the part of the train's engineer, Brandon Bostian.

That much was obvious to former Philly Mayor Michael Nutter, who declared within days of the crash, "Clearly it was reckless in terms of the driving by the engineer. There's no way in the world he should have been going that fast into the curve ... I don't know what was go-



GETTY IMAGES

ing on with him. I don't know what was going on in the cab, but there's really no excuse that can be offered, literally, unless he had a heart attack."

On Monday the National Transportation Safety Board plans to release more than 2,000 pages

of documents related to the crash, including surveillance images, images from the crash, firsthand accounts from crew and first responders, and black box data that documents the train's final moments, the Inquirer reported.

This data will be used

by NTSB board members to determine the cause of the crash. That determination is expected to be issued this spring.

A transcript of an interview with Bostian will also be released by the NTSB.

But officials already said publicly just a month after the crash that Bostian does not recall the moments leading up to the crash, and was not talking, using his phone or intoxicated when the train jumped the rails.

Positive train control technology, which prevents trains from traveling above safe speed limits based on where they are located, was not implemented on rails between Philly and New York at the time of the derailment.

The New York Times Magazine recently delved into the crash and into Bostian's life for clues about the crash, but came

up only with speculation.

Bostian losing "situational awareness" has been cited as a potential cause of the crash by sources including West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin. In other words, he may have lost track of where he was and accidentally accelerated while driving the train into the curve — the sharpest curve along Amtrak's rails between Washington, D.C., and New York City.

Reports that a projectile may have been thrown at the train and somehow led to the crash have not yet been ruled out. A SEPTA train on the same tracks reported being hit in the windshield by an object.

A decision on the cause of the crash is not expected until spring. Members of the NTSB's board will vote on what the "probable cause" of the crash is.

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BOLARIS: POLAR VORTEX TO KICK OFF ON SUPER BOWL 50

Bolaris' Weather Watch



The January blizzard of 2016 is now in our weather rearview mirror, and our atmosphere is what meteorologists call "the relaxed mode."

That's because the polar jet has retreated north of the border and much milder air will take over for awhile. A major storm system will move through the Ohio Valley on Wednesday, meaning we will be on the eastern flank, which is the mild side of the storm, and should be an all-liquid event.

The flow out ahead of the storm could set a few record-high temperatures on Wednesday as readings soar into the 60s. I'm a bit concerned of scattered small-stream flash flooding, mainly in the Philly and New York City regions as the combina-

tion of what's left of the snow melts and liquid amounts exceeding an inch might lead to some limited flooding.

The return of the polar vortex will arrive just in time for Super Bowl 50's kickoff this Sunday.

The polar vortex has been in limited supply this winter season, making only one true appearance during our January blizzard. The one that will arrive on Sunday night is a ticking snow bomb. Right now, the energy associated with its leading clipper and attached polar front would lead to nose-diving temperatures and widespread flurries and snow showers.

Models are hinting that the energy with the lead clipper will eventually lead to a secondary strong storm to form somewhere along the Northeast coast, with the best chance of significant snow for New England. High uncertainty remains where the exact placement of storm intensification will take place.

Philadelphia

Most of the snow continues to melt away, and temperatures this week will be on the rebound.

The nicest day of this week will be Tuesday as temps will be in the low 50s with a fair amount of sunshine. Monday will be nice with readings well into the 50s, but a good deal of cloud cover and risk of a shower.

A major rain storm is expected Wednesday, with the chance of scattered,

small-stream flash flooding due to the combination of snow melt and rain amounts exceeding one inch. Record-high temps for some as the mercury soars into the 60s.

The polar vortex returns Sunday. Right now it looks like nose-diving temps with flurries and scattered snow showers. We'll watch for possible coastal development which would mean big changes to the current outlook.

BRIEFS

Pope Francis' car auctioned off for \$82K in Philly

A tiny black Fiat 500L that carried Pope Francis through Philadelphia during his historic first visit to the United States was sold for \$82,000 at an auction on Friday, organizers said.

The auction drew more than 19 bidders and lasted just 11 minutes. Participants competed to take home the car, described as "Pope Francis' Philly Fiat" both remotely and in-person at the

Philadelphia Auto Show, church and auction officials said.

The winning bid of \$82,000 was put forward by Michael and Kate Chapman of Chapman Auto Stores and the money will benefit the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, church officials said.

The 79-year-old pontiff chose

the Fiat as a symbol of his concern for the environment and desire to put aside some of the rich trappings long associated with his office.

A new Fiat 500L starts at a list price of about \$19,000, according to the company's website.

The Fiat was one of six used during the Argentina-born pontiff's visit to Washington, New York

and Philadelphia. He also used a white Jeep with open sides known as a "Popemobile" that allowed Francis to kiss babies as he passed.

Thousands of Americans, both followers of the Catholic religion and the curious, packed the streets of the three cities during Francis' September visit, during which he also addressed the United Nations and met with prisoners and homeless people. REUTERS



GETTY IMAGES

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M3 Global Research, one of the most respected market research companies in the industry, is in the process of actively recruiting people who have been diagnosed with an eye disease, also called a retina disease, for a paid market research study that is scheduled to commence on February 9th. With that said, we would be grateful if you could assist us in "getting the word out" and sharing the details of this study with your members/constituents.

This study will consist of an in-person interview (which will be facilitated by one of our professional moderators) and will last approximately 60 minutes. We will also offer a \$125 compensation/honorarium to each patient successfully participates in this study.

Below, you will find an overview of the study details and specifications:

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Please feel free to distribute this information to any/all persons that you feel may be interested in participating in this study and instruct them to contact our recruiter, Gloria, at 215-360-6372. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance

BRIEF

UN asks for \$861 million to help Iraq meet humanitarian bill

The United Nations appealed on Sunday for \$861 million to help Iraq meet a big funding gap in its 2016 emergency response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war against Islamic State.

Baghdad, whose revenues have fallen as oil prices have plunged, has said it would manage to finance less than half of its \$1.56 billion plan to assist 10

million people in need.

"With the expanding needs, the allocation through the federal budget will not be sufficient. We expect that the highly prioritized [U.N.] Humanitarian Response Plan will help cover part of the gap," Minister of Migration and Displacement Jassim Mohammed al-Jaff said in a statement.

U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Iraq Lise Grande said she expected the crisis in Iraq "to widen and worsen" in coming

months.

The United Nations expects huge numbers of civilians to flee Mosul when Iraqi forces mount an offensive to retake the northern city from Islamic State, which the authorities have pledged to do this year.

"The number of people who need help is going up, the amount of resources is going down and that's why you have a really big gap. What we're trying to do in a very clear way is to

prioritize," she told Reuters after launching the appeal in Baghdad.

Among the 10 million Iraqis requiring urgent assistance are more than 3.3 million people displaced by the conflict with Islamic State since 2014 and a quarter million people from neighboring Syria who have fled from their country's nearly five-year-old war, according to the United Nations. Children make up half of the displaced population.

REUTERS



Syrian security forces and residents gather at the site of suicide bombings in the area of a revered Shiite shrine in the town of Sayyida Zeinab, on the outskirts of the capital Damascus. GETTY IMAGES

Damascus blast kills 60

The Syrian government's chief delegate retorted that the blasts in Damascus, which the Interior Ministry blamed on a car bomb and two suicide bombers, merely confirmed the link between the opposition and terrorism — even though Islamic State has been excluded from the talks.

Syria's main opposition group met U.N. mediator Staffan de Mistura for the first time on Sunday, but the talks ran straight into trouble after Islamic State bombers killed over 60 people near the country's holiest Shi'ite shrine.

Representatives of the Saudi-backed Higher Negotiation Committee (HNC), which includes political and militant opponents of President Bashar al-Assad, warned they may yet walk away from the Geneva talks unless the suffering of civilians in the five-year conflict is eased.

The United Nations is aiming for six months of talks, first on a ceasefire, then working toward a political settlement to the civil war that has killed over 250,000 people, driven more than 10 mil-

lion from their homes and drawn in global powers.

The HNC has insisted air strikes and sieges of Syrian towns must end before it joins the "proximity talks", in which de Mistura would meet each side in separate rooms.

"In view of the [Syrian] regime and its allies' insistence in violating the rights of the Syrian people, the presence of the HNC delegation in Geneva would not have any justification and the HNC could pull its negotiating team out," the group's coordinator Riad Hijab said in an online statement.

However, an opposition spokesman described discussions on Sunday with de Mistura as very positive, adding there would be further meetings on Monday. "Things are encouraging and positive concerning humanitarian issues," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described the talks — the first in two years — as long overdue. "I urge all parties to put the people of Syria at the heart of their discussions, and above partisan interests," he said during a visit to Ethiopia.

In Washington, Secretary of State John Kerry urged both sides to seize the opportunity to make progress. "In the end there is no military solution to the conflict," he said in a televised statement. REUTERS

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FBI negotiates with defiant Oregon refuge holdouts

Harney County Sheriff Dave Ward earlier this week said the protesters went too far in their armed occupation.

The FBI negotiated with four armed occupants at a remote federal wildlife refuge in Oregon on Saturday while the holdouts expressed their mistrust of the government and reluctance to leave.

One of the four protesters remaining at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge said in a darkly lit video posted on Friday that he wanted to be assured he would not be arrested if he left. Others with him expressed similar sentiments.

Tensions in the standoff remained high four days after Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, 54, a spokesman

for the group that seized buildings at the refuge on Jan. 2, was killed by police during the arrests of occupation leader Ammon Bundy and several other protesters as they traveled on a highway.

Supporters staged a rally in the nearby ranching community of Burns on Saturday night. About 30 pick-up trucks and other vehicles honked horns and waved flags — U.S., Confederate and Gadsden — as they drove. Passing the courthouse, protesters yelled "murderer" and "FBI go home."

B.J. Soper, a founding member of the Pacific Patriots Network, said: "It came from the locals, who asked up to help out and organize this driving rally and show support for the community."

But Mayor Craig LaFollette said the protesters were mostly outsiders who had disrupted the



Anti-government protesters drive through town during a rally prior to a rolling vehicle protest by self-proclaimed patriots in Burns, Oregon. GETTY IMAGES

community, adding: "We don't want them here."

Soper countered that rally footage showed "about 70 percent of the vehicles were actually locals."

The FBI said Finicum reached for a gun during the confrontation, which was recorded on grainy video. His family disputes that.

In taking over the refuge, protesters criti-

cized federal control of vast tracts of land in a flare-up of the so-called Sagebrush Rebellion, a decades-old conflict over federal control of millions of acres in the West.

Bundy has issued messages through his attorney urging those remaining at the refuge to stand down and saying they would continue to fight through the courts.

REUTERS

Zika virus continues to spread fear among pregnant Brazilians

For scores of women in the epicenter of the Zika outbreak in Brazil, the joy of pregnancy has given way to fear.

In the sprawling coastal city of Recife, panic has struck maternity wards since Zika — a mosquito-borne virus first detected in the Americas last year — was linked to wave of brain damage in newborns. There is no vaccine or known cure for the poorly understood disease.

In about four-fifths of cases, Zika causes no noticeable symptoms so women have no idea if they contracted it during pregnancy. Test kits for the virus are only effective in the first week of infection and only available at private clinics at a cost of 900 reais, more than the monthly minimum wage.

At Recife's IMIP hospital, dozens of soon-to-be mothers wait anxiously for ultrasound scans that

will indicate whether the child they are carrying has a shrunken head and damaged brain, a condition called microcephaly. The hospital has already had 160 babies born there with the deformity since August.

"It's very frightening. I'm worried my daughter will have microcephaly," says Elisangela Barros, 40, shedding a tear behind her glasses. "My neighborhood is poor and full of mosquitoes, trash and has no running water. Five of my neighbors have Zika."

Women like Barros, who live in crowded, muddy slums of Brazil's chaotic cities, have little defense against the Aedes aegypti mosquito that carries Zika, as well as other diseases such as dengue and yellow fever. They often cannot afford insect repellent and have little access to family planning.

REUTERS



A new investigational therapy study for grass pollen allergy sufferers aged 18-50. Compensation up to \$6,100 upon successful study completion.



The investigational medication being tested in this study is GrassMATAMPL in the form of subcutaneous injections (needle injections given just under the skin), which has been developed by the study sponsor. The course of injections is designed to provide specific immunity to (protection against) grass pollen allergy for the long term relief of symptoms like runny, stuffy nose, sneezing, and itchy, watery eyes when exposed to grass pollens. There is increasing evidence that the effectiveness of allergy immunotherapies is correlated to the cumulative dose (total combined dose of treatments) of allergen administered. Higher cumulative doses of allergen increase the efficacy of the product.

This study utilizes Inflammax Research's mobile Environmental Exposure Chamber, referred to as mEEC®, to bring on allergy symptoms in a controlled manner. You are required to attend two, four day sessions, at either the Cincinnati, Ohio, or Neptune, New Jersey EEC. At the EEC you will answer questions about your allergy symptoms inside the EEC. Each EEC session will last for 3 hours, and the total time at the site will be approximately 4.5hrs per day.

If you are deemed eligible to continue in the study after the first 4 EEC visits, you will return to your local study clinic for 6 study treatment visits approximately one week apart.

After the study treatment visits you will return to the same EEC location for the second set of EEC sessions; 4 days, approximately 4.5hrs per day.

Finally, you will return to your local study clinic for one follow-up visit. After this follow-up visit, 3 scheduled telephone interviews will be conducted at 3, 6, and 12 months after your last study treatment day.

What Are Environmental Exposure Chambers?

Allergic subjects sit in an environment room and are exposed to a controlled level of airborne allergen. Volunteers exposed to allergen in this environment develop allergic symptoms in a known, predictable manner. The volunteers are asked to record instantaneous symptoms on a diary card. The resulting data are superior compared to traditional methods of evaluating anti-allergic therapies in development.

The investigational medication being tested in this study is GrassMATAMPL in the form of subcutaneous injections (needle injections given just under the skin), which has been developed by the study sponsor, Allergy Therapeutics (UK)Ltd. The course of injections is designed to provide specific immunity

to (protection against) grass pollen allergy for the long term relief of symptoms like runny, stuffy nose, sneezing, and itchy, watery eyes when exposed to grass pollens. The substance injected consists of grass pollen extracts, which has been modified by a chemical called glutaraldehyde to reduce its allergic potential which can cause local and whole body reactions. These extracts are adsorbed onto substance called tyrosine which is a natural component of the body but when given with the pollen extract helps to release it slowly from the injection site. This is the basis of the name, Modified Allergen Tyrosine Adsorbate shortened to MATA. In addition a substance called Monophosphoryl lipid A (MPL®) has been added to enhance the protective immunostimulating properties of the product. Both tyrosine adsorption and the addition of MPL® is expected to produce greater efficacy while at the same time reducing incidence and the severity of the side effects seen in the older unmodified products. GrassMATAMPL products have been available to patients in some European countries since 1999.

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Mixed-sex prayer site at Western Wall

The wall is revered as a vestige of Judaism's two ancient temples and access to it is segregated by gender. Most religious rites take place in the men's section in accordance with centuries-old Orthodox standards that hold sway in Israel.



Western Wall in the Jerusalem old city. GETTY IMAGES

The Israeli government approved on Sunday the creation of a mixed-sex plaza at Jerusalem's Western Wall to accommodate Jews who contest Orthodox curbs on worship by women there.

The new area will be located at a separate expanse of the wall that, when seen from the plaza looking toward the wall, stands to the right of the current Orthodox-administered compound where

men and women will still worship separately.

More liberal streams of Judaism, which outside of Israel have larger followings than Orthodoxy, chafe at the restriction. It is regularly challenged by the activist group "Women of the Wall," sometimes setting off scuffles and police intervention.

Under the plan approved by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet over objections

from Orthodox members, an old archaeological site will be turned into a plaza where men and women can mix and pray freely.

In remarks broadcast before the 15-to-5 vote, Netanyahu said the plan sought a "solution to the question of the Women of the Wall" and "a compromise on this sensitive issue of a place that is meant to unite the Jewish people." REUTERS



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Trump least likely to hit 'follow' button on Twitter

The millions of Twitter users following Donald Trump shouldn't expect a "follow back" from the Republican presidential front-runner anytime soon.

Trump's campaign account @realDonaldTrump has nearly 6 million Twitter followers, the most of any candidate running for president. But he is picky about who he follows, with just 49 accounts listed as of Sunday. That means he has the highest ratio of followers to those he is following, in both the Republican and Democratic fields.

In contrast, Ted Cruz, the senator from Texas who has emerged as Trump's strongest rival, follows nearly 14,000 accounts on Twitter and has 755,000 followers, according to his profile as of Friday.

The exclusivity underscores how Trump primarily uses Twitter to



Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

Twitter allegiance with a "follow."

Candidates can't pick and choose their followers, but they have control over when to click the follow button.

"There is more risk in who you follow," said Scott Talan, a communications professor at American University who teaches social media strategy. "If you're actively following someone, you're assuming it's not going to be some religious extremist ... or a prisoner with a record."

And, while some Republican candidates follow each other, Trump follows none of them.

The accounts Trump monitors include those of his children and several hotel properties. Also on the eclectic list are musician Steven Tyler, basketball great Magic Johnson and Vince McMahon, chairman and CEO of WWE Inc. REUTERS

broadcast his message as opposed to engaging in a back and forth with users, experts in digital strategy said. While other campaigns use a similar approach, Trump commands the most attention on social media.

Trump's pickiness may indicate a surprising strategy for the freewheeling Republican front-runner: Playing it safe when it comes to pledging his

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US, Mexican operation targets high-level Sinaloa cartel members



A monument marks the boundary between Mexico and the U.S. at the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Reserve. GETTY IMAGES

Two dozen members of Mexico's powerful Sinaloa cartel have been arrested in an operation at the U.S.-Mexico border that also yielded assault-type weapons and hundreds of pounds of narcotics, U.S. authorities said.

The secretive operation carried out by U.S. and Mexican authorities Friday dealt a "strong blow" to the cartel, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said, just weeks after the arrest of cartel leader Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, following his escape from prison six months earlier.

"Due to the sensitive nature, this operation was conducted with utmost secrecy to maintain the element of surprise and to ensure the safety of the Mexican law enforcement officers executing it," ICE spokeswoman Gillian Christensen said in a statement late Saturday.

The statement did

not name the 24 people taken into custody but said the operation dubbed "Mexican Operation Diablo Express" targeted high-level members of the drug trafficking organization.

Operating around Sonoyta, a Mexican city along the border with Arizona, the Sinaloa cartel has smuggled millions of pounds of illegal drugs, millions of U.S. dollars and weapons between the two countries, ICE said.

The joint operation is further evidence of a more cooperative relationship between the United States and Mexico in cracking down on drug cartels responsible for taking billions of dollars worth of narcotics across the border every year.

Mexican authorities had extensive help from Washington in recapturing Guzman in a violent standoff in early January. Guzman had humiliated Mexican President

Enrique Pena Nieto with a jaw-dropping escape from a maximum security prison.

News of the latest operation comes just before the Iowa presidential nominating caucuses, the first test in the November 2016 election campaign. The perceived porousness of the U.S. border with Mexico has emerged as a hot issue in the campaign, with billionaire real estate developer Donald Trump, a candidate for the Republican nomination, proposing the construction of a wall along the entire length of the 1,900-mile border.

Sonoyta, in the Mexican state of Sonora, is directly south of the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, a vast wilderness area in the Arizona desert. The refuge earned a reputation as a soft point in the border that smugglers of drugs as well as illegal immigrants have exploited. REUTERS

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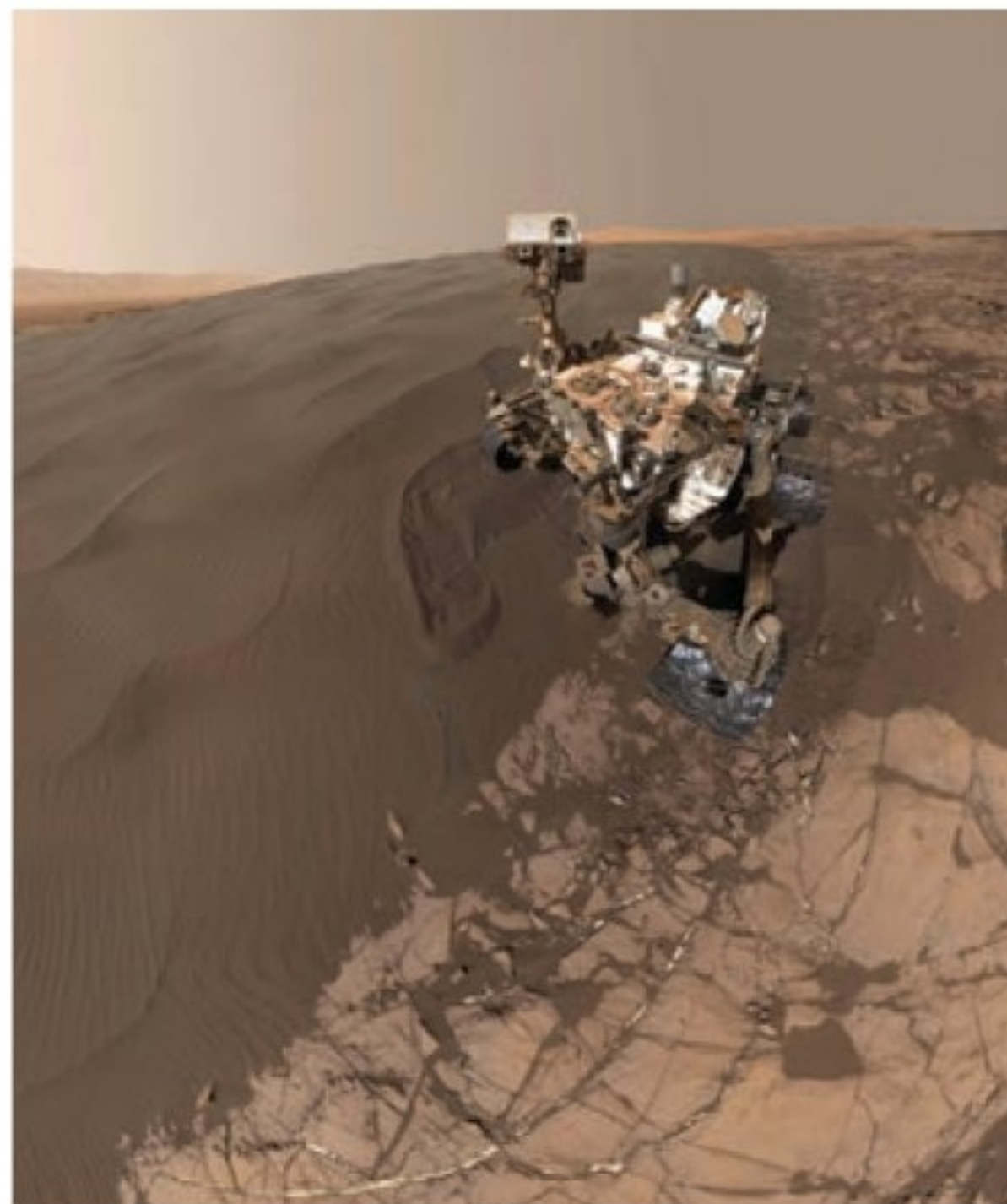
The latest self-portrait from NASA's Curiosity Mars rover shows the car-size mobile laboratory beside a dark dune where it has been scooping and sieving samples of sand.

The new selfie combines 57 images taken by the Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) camera at the end of Curiosity's arm on.

The rover has been investigating a group of active sand dunes for two months, studying how the wind moves and sorts sand particles on Mars. The site is part of Bagnold Dune Field, which lines the northwestern flank of Mars' Mount Sharp.

When the component images were taken, the rover had scuffed the edge of "Namib Dune" and collected the first of three scoops of sand from that dune. It used its scoop later to collect a second sample.

During processing of the third sample, an actuator in the sample-processing device did not perform as expected when commanded. This week, the Curiosity team is identifying possible reasons for the actuator's performance. **NASA**



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Bradley Cooper isn't single

I know you're worried about Bradley Cooper's love life, so let me set your mind at ease. The "Joy" star did not split up with model girlfriend Irina Shayk over the holidays, despite a report that surfaced this weekend. And that breakup that didn't happen totally wasn't because she doesn't get along with Cooper's mom. Nothing could be further from the truth, according to E! News. "They are still very much together. Irina gets along great with Bradley's mother," a source says. "They are extremely close and



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

hang out even when Bradley is not around. They have a vacation coming up as well." OK, you know what, any-

mous source? You're trying a little too hard to be convincing there. Maybe I'm getting a little suspicious again.

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Take that, Oscars. It's going to be an extra awkward end-run for this year's awards season now that so much attention has been drawn to the lack of diversity at the Oscars, since every other awards show will inevitably be compared to them — and favorably, at that. Take, for example, this weekend's Screen Actors Guild

SAG Awards not so white



Awards, which saw trophies going to the likes of Idris Elba, Queen Latifah, Viola Davis and the cast of "Orange Is the New Black," who even took a moment to call out the Academy for its diversity issues. "Look at this stage, this is what we talk about when we talk about diversity,"

Laura Prepon said while the "OITNB" cast was accepting the win for Best Performance by an Ensemble in a TV Comedy. "Different race, color, creed, sexual orientation — I mean, thank you so much." And Elba himself actually took home two trophies. Take that, Oscar.

Chris Brown's Grammys Twitter rant



Whenever I see something about the Grammys and Chris Brown's temper, I start to worry. But can you blame me, given his history? But we can all breathe a little easier, because this time he was just working out his aggression on Twitter, not a fellow human being. So what's bugging him this time? Apparently Brown is feeling slighted because his latest album, "Royalty," didn't earn any Grammy nominations. Of course, Brown

himself is nominated for one for his work on the track "Only" with Nicki Minaj, Drake and Lil Wayne, but apparently that's not good enough for him. "If you turn on your radio right now I promise you within the hour you will hear Chris Brown on damn near half the songs or I've co-written," he tweeted. "The awards used to mean something. Now it's about likes and memes." Somebody needs a hug.



Billy Eichner

While you guys waste your time arguing about the election I'll be here PRAYING that Jacob Tremblay stays grounded.



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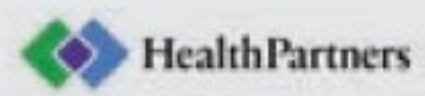
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Philly Pops take on Carole King's tapestry of hits

You'll recognize all of King's songs — even if you didn't know she wrote them.



CHRIS JORDAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Carole King's iconic album "Tapestry" gave us the hits "I Feel the Earth Move," "It's Too Late" and "So Far Away."

But she also co-wrote the Little Eva early '60s pop hit "The Loco-Motion."

Suffice to say, if you're not deep into the works of King, you'll be in for a few pleasant surprises at the Philly Pops presentation of "The Carole King Song-

If you go

"The Carole King Song-book" with the Philly Pops
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Kimmel Center
300 S. Broad St.
\$35 to \$125, 215-670-2300
PhillyPops.org

book," Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Kimmel Center.

"We do a lot of songs people have no idea she wrote," says featured vocalist and Tony nominee Liz Callaway. "They sent me a list of the songs and as I went through them, I

said 'That looks familiar; I had no idea she wrote that.' It's interesting to see the audiences as well. They know the words to every single song."

King started out in the music biz as a teenage Brill Building songwriter whose partner was her husband, Gerry Goffin. The hits from this period include "Up on the Roof" for the Drifters, "Pleasant Valley Sunday" for the Monkees, "(You Make Me Feel Like a) Natural Woman" for Aretha Franklin and "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" for the Shirelles. By 1970, she had split with Goffin and moved to Los Angeles, where she recorded "Tap-



The Philly Pops are playing Carole King's hits. PROVIDED

estry."

"As a kid ['Tapestry'] resonated with me, and as I listened to it through the years, each time I appreciate it on another level," Callaway says.

This is a season of King. "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" played to raves on Broadway in 2014 (and is coming to Philly in March), and last month King, at age 73, received Kennedy Center Honors for her lifetime of artistic achievement.

"The Carole King Song-book" will feature the

65-piece Pops orchestra backing guest vocalists Allison Blackwell, a Philly-area native currently in "The Lion King"; Bryce Ryness, recently in Philly with "Matilda the Musical"; and Callaway, who was nominated for a Tony for her role in "Baby."

"She's one of the top American songwriters," says Philly Pops Music Director Michael Krajewski of King. "Put her up there with Gershwin, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin — she's kept that tradition going."



Broadway's Liz Callaway will sing with the Pops.

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Jack Black likes the sound of his voice

The actor prefers doing animated films, like "Kung Fu Panda 3," to live action.

ORLANDO
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Jack Black has spent the last decade voicing Po, the title star of the "Kung Fu Panda" movies. The first one came out in 2010, but the actor and performer, 46, was in the recording booth before the studio even began animating. He's back in the third film, which finds him finally meeting some other pandas and battling a menacing martial arts master (voiced by J.K. Simmons). Black talks to Metro about his love of voicework and his visit to Uganda last year, which left him speechless.

How's your kung fu?
I am a fan. I've always been a fan of the genre



In "Kung Fu Panda 3," Jack Black's Po, left, finally reunites with his long-lost father (Bryan Cranston). DREAMWORKS ANIMATION

and kung fu movies. I wouldn't say I'm a master of kung fu, but I can defend myself. [imitates kung fu movements]

Do you prefer voicework over doing live action?

When you have to get up at 5 a.m. for costume and makeup and you know they're going to shoot you, it's a stressful process. I'm much more relaxed when I'm voice acting, and I think I do it better, to be honest.

How did you come up with Po's voice?

No one really asked me to create a character voice. I made a very different voice in another Dreamworks animated film in which I worked many years ago, called "A Shark Tale." [This character] had a Brooklyn accent; it was like a Woody Allen film. This time, they were very specific in that they wanted me to be myself. "We want you to be you," I was told. "We want Po to have the voice we know from 'School of Rock.'" And that's what I did.

We saw a more serious side of your personality when you traveled to Uganda. Have you returned to talk to Felix, the 12-year-old homeless orphan you met there?
I have not spoken to Felix,

but I have been in contact with people in the organization, because I want



GETTY IMAGES

to send him to boarding school. That's the plan and I am funding him, but they say he needs more time at the shelter before making the transition to a more intense education. But somehow, I feel I have unfinished business there. I would love to return.

Children identify a lot with you.

I'm just a clown and children like it when I do strange faces, which is the international language of clowning. That's why I got so emotional. These children are in a terrible and very dangerous situation, but when you see that they still have a great sense of humor, it breaks your heart to think that at the end of the day, you are going to go home but they will remain there.

Do you think humor is international and that's why these films do well everywhere?

Usually, humor does not travel well because of the language barrier. Many things are lost in translation. I think we've been fortunate to have worked with universal themes that are funny in many languages, and that has helped us to succeed where other comedies have failed. I think it's because it is not strictly comedy. Although they may not get all the jokes, the adventure and the emotional aspect of the film is probably best translated. The fights, the father-son drama — that's universal. Love!

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WHY COMPROMISE?

On making 'Modern Love'

It's like casting a movie.



RACHEL RACZKA
@rachelraczka
rachelraczka@metro.us

"Modern Love," the ever-popular New York Times feature, was a natural fit for a podcast in this podcast-obsessed world—but the minds behind the weekly storytelling column knew they had to do it justice.

The "Modern Love" podcast debuted in December, after two years of planning in the hands of senior podcast producer Lisa Tobin ("Dear Sugar") and the team at Boston's NPR news station, WBUR. The result was a carefully paired celebrity-reading of an essay from the Times' archives, followed by a discussion with host Meghna Chakrabarti ("Here & Now"), "Modern Love" editor Daniel Jones and the essayist.

We chat with producer Jessica Alpert, who joined the podcast in September, about the first season.

More than a decade of love

Jones says "Modern Love" gets about 7,000 submissions every year, and only 52 get printed. Over the course of the column's 11-year-lifespan, that's quite a few stories to pick from. The task of choosing which of those translate to spoken word then lies with Alpert, who says both thematic and dialogue factors go into formatting for broadcast.

"When you produce something for radio, it



Can you hear the love? ISTOCK

has to be well-written and interesting and appealing, but it needs to have element that we can make come alive through sound," she says. "Some of the [columns] we've looked at but then put aside are beautifully written, but they don't have enough action."

If the voice fits

Alpert then scours her voice bank to find the perfect match—each column is read by a celebrity. So far, "Seinfeld" star Jason Alexander, Broadway actress Lauren Molina and "American Horror Story's" Sarah Paulson have read for the podcast—Judd Apatow, January Jones and Emmy Rossum are set to narrate later this season—but the celebs need more than just a pretty voice.

"When I'm thinking of someone who can read a column, not only am I thinking about their physical voice and what they've done professionally, but I want to know if they'll connect with the story on a deeper level," says Alpert.

Good example: "Nashville" star Connie Britton

will read one of the column's most popular stories, "My First Lesson in Motherhood," a big ugly-cry-inducing story by a new mother who adopts a child from China who experiences unexpected health complications. Alpert suggested the pairing, knowing Britton adopted baby boy from Ethiopia years earlier. "It's going to be very powerful," she adds.

But what about my favorite column?

If you're a longtime "Modern Love" reader, it's likely you have a favorite essay. But even if you're not, at least one column has probably passed your way, like the mega-viral "To Fall in Love With Anyone, Do This," a January 2015 essay written by a woman that experiments with psychologist Arthur Aron's 36 question study.

Who will read that one? "We want to make sure it's the absolutely right person," says Alpert. "It's a huge task ... so many people love that essay."

The answer is up in the air, but what about in your wildest dreams? "I have a story that I would love Robert De Niro to read, it's made for him," Alpert muses. "And we'd love Meryl Streep. That would be unbelievable. But we're working on it."

Episodes of the "Modern Love" podcast are released every Thursday on iTunes.

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Taking the gender out of

Are regular men embracing the gender-fluid looks on the catwalk?

LUZ LANCHEROS
@MetroWorldNews
letters@metro.us

The David Bowie tribute jacket presented by Gucci at the recent autumn/winter Milan menswear fashion week, which subsequently took over social media, had the industry swooning. But the cut and designs may have regular men wondering what all the fuss was about.

It's an extreme example of "genderless" style, but the trend has been going strong for several years on runways and editorial

pages of the fashion world, says Vogue International columnist Suzy Menkes. High-end houses such as Louis Vuitton, J.W. Anderson and Lanvin have been turning out head-turning gender-fluid looks, while celebrities like Will Smith's son Jaden, who stars in Louis Vuitton's spring/summer '16 women's campaign, live in a world in which "there are no codes on who should wear an evening gown as regards to the division between sexes," she says.

"Preconceptions about clothes have



This homage to the late David Bowie went viral. @SOCIAL_COUTURE, TWITTER



Louis Vuitton accessories dare to challenge traditional concepts of masculinity. GETTY IMAGES

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At 10 am at 6758 Ridge Ave., Phila., PA 19128.

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"Now that men are more concerned with dressing better, looking better, they do not have to be gay to consume fashion."

Juan Pablo Socarrás, Colombian designer

changed mightily, and it now seems perfectly normal for a man to wear a giant sweatshirt with animal prints or landscape views. In contrast to past demonstrations, blurring the genre today is not a provocative statement — it's just a way of life," says Menkes, who also wondered if this could apply to a generation with fewer prejudices and less purchasing power.

And shoppers are responding. According to the latest Business of Fashion report from 2013, the luxury goods market for men grew to 13 percent from 9 percent. NPD Group, a U.K.-based market research firm, reported that in the U.S. alone, sales of men's apparel rose 5 percent in 2013 to more than \$60 billion —

outpacing womenswear.

Luxury brands like Hermès, Lanvin and Prada are opening more dedicated stores than ever. LVMH, the conglomerate that has a stake in all of the aforementioned labels, invested \$135 million in the menswear category.

"Now that men are more concerned with dressing better, looking better, they do not have to be gay to consume fashion," says Colombian designer Juan Pablo Socarrás, about the new menswear fashion phenomenon. "There are many icons on social networks who now have a world of information accessible for those who seek their identity through this. Look at [soccer players] Cristiano Ronaldo or [Lionel] Messi posing for big brands."



Silhouettes inspired by the '70s were part of Thom Browne's menswear line.

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Students at Cristo Rey go beyond the standard reading, writing and 'rithmetic

Through an innovative work-study program, the Catholic institution pairs its pupils with Philly businesses to give them real-world job experience — and help them pay for their education.



MEREDITH ENGEL
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Students at Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School — which last year accepted about a third of its 600 applicants — spend one day a week splitting office duties with three of their peers to balance out the workload of an entry-level position at major corporations like Comcast and Deloitte. The money they earn — \$7,500 — partially funds



Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School has a 100 percent college acceptance rate. ISTOCK

their \$12,000 annual tuition fee. Families pay what they can of the balance, and donors pick

up the rest.

The program seems to be working: The school just graduated its

first class of seniors — and all 86 of them were accepted into college.

"We're focusing on

one thing only: getting students to be successful in college and beyond," says Principal Michael Gomez.

Along with about 30 others across the country, the school is part of the Cristo Rey model, which provides independent education to students who could otherwise not afford it. Students need not be Catholic to attend, though about a quarter of the student body at the Philly school are.

To prepare them for the next four years and beyond rising freshmen take a three-week business skills bootcamp in August at La Salle University.

"We want their first experience of high school to be on a college campus," says Gomez. "They're learning business skills from integrity in the workplace,

to how to use Microsoft Office, to how to put on a tie."

The real-world education doesn't stop there: As part of the regular curriculum, students take courses in business development, where they learn how to market themselves, craft a résumé and prepare for a job interview.

Cristo Rey's 100 percent college acceptance rate is a nice feather in the school's cap, but Gomez has even bigger dreams.

"We're not successful until we see these students graduate from college," he says, adding that faculty and staff keep working with their students long after they graduate from Cristo Rey. "Our attitude is 'go big or go home.' Big means graduating college, not getting in."



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At St. Thomas Aquinas, students are getting a boost in reading — and in confidence

Literacy initiative reflects the diversity of school's population.



ALIZAH SALARIO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

When London Cooper, 9, started third grade at St. Thomas Aquinas Mission School last fall, she didn't like reading. But her attitude changed when she began working with the school's new literacy specialist, Ashley Schriener.

"She makes me smart, and I learn a lot going up there with her," says London over the phone. "I liked to read because she helped me sound out words and break down the words."

Cooper is one student benefiting from a literacy initiative at St. Thomas Aquinas, a South Philly elementary

school that serves mostly immigrant families. The school is part of the Independence Mission Schools network, a nonprofit organization managing 14 Catholic elementary schools across Philadelphia.

"The students are so enthusiastic. They're ready to learn and they're so excited about their progress," says Schriener.

The Literacy Four Initiative was funded by a \$1.4 million turnaround grant from the Philadelphia Schools Partnership, which invests in struggling schools to improve achievement and enrollment.

The primary goal, says Principal Vince Mazzio, is to have all students reading on grade level by the end of fourth grade.

"If you have a student walk through the



St. Thomas Aquinas' literacy initiative has helped students' reading levels soar. ISTOCK

front door, we assess them, then we design their pathway. That

means: Will they thrive in general instruction? Do they need the dif-

ferentiation of small groups? Do we need to put a specialist in the

classroom, or for students [who] need extra help, do we find them group support outside the classroom?" Mazzio says.

The school has also taken steps to ensure faculty and staff reflect the diversity of the student body, which has fairly equal representations of Hispanic, African American, Vietnamese and Chinese students, says Mazzio.

"They're receiving whole group instruction, ESL and intensive reading instruction" says Schriener. "As we're teaching reading, we're also teaching language."

The impact is apparent on students like London, who has gone up five reading levels this year. Says the 9-year-old: "I told my mom, and my mom was happy."

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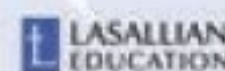
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The fact that Pope Francis is a fan of ballroom dancing, and particularly the tango, was good news for students at Gesu School.

Last September, 40 students from the independent Catholic school's "Danc-

ing With the Students" program performed the Argentine tango and a Philadelphia-style swing in front of an audience of 100,000. They were invited to perform by the World Meeting of Families, which hosts the annual Festival of Families, a celebration of Catholic faith, where the pope was in attendance.

"After we performed we were walking with the crowd to go home, so many people congratulated us and that was really inspirational," says Cieria, a Gesu eighth grader, who later watched the performance when it was broadcast on national television.

The "Dancing With the Students" program was founded a decade ago by Susan Martinelli Shea, a special education teacher who now serves on Gesu's board. Gesu seventh and eighth grad-

ers meet once a week for dance practice and compete against one another in an annual event. All students receive medals, and mirror ball trophies are awarded to the best dancer in each category, and to a student who shows outstanding effort and attitude.

"It's the character-formation part of the program that really interests me," says Bryan Carter, Gesu School's president and CEO. Carter notes that when students learn to push through a difficult move on the dance floor, they bring that determination to the classroom.

For students like Cieria, performing for an audience is also about self-expression.

"Our teachers taught us that we could bring ourselves to the dance," says the 13-year-old. "You don't have to be very basic."

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All Eagle eyes on Senior Bowl

A look at Senior Bowl players the Eagles may like.

LUKE MILLER
@LukeFM7
sports@metro.us

The Eagles' recent favorability toward Senior Bowl players in the draft has been well documented, so special attention is awarded to those players they sat down with for an interview. Doug Pederson, Howie Roseman and even Jeffrey Lurie were in Mobile, Alabama, for the Bowl. Lurie's presence in particular led to rumors they were scouting for either a franchise quarterback or the team's next personnel head.

Carson Wentz, QB, North Dakota State
Wentz was making the most news at the Senior Bowl this week. For several fans, it was their first chance to see the



North Dakota State's Carson Wentz will be one of the top rated quarterbacks in this year's NFL Draft. GETTY IMAGES

Senior Bowl

Two other players the Eagles seemingly like:

Jason Spriggs, T, Indiana:
Spriggs could remain at tackle if drafted by Philly.

Sean Davis, DB, Maryland:
Davis has spent seasons at Maryland at both safety and corner and comes with a reputation of stuffing the run.

quarterback who torched Football Championship Subdivision defenses enough during his career to snatch a first-round grade in this year's draft. The biggest question in the organization right now is whether the Eagles will re-sign Sam Bradford, draft a quarterback of the future or both.

If they want Wentz, they may have to trade up to do it. He impressed all week at the Senior Bowl practices, and is garner-

ing top-10 status. Listed at 6-foot-5, 223 pounds, Wentz has prototype size at the position, and set about showing scouts he had the arm strength, touch, and mindset of an NFL signal caller. At the moment, he seems lined up as the second quarterback off the board, after California's Jared Goff.

Cody Whitehair, G, Kansas State
Whitehair is one of many offensive line prospects being linked to the Eagles, and along with Wentz, is a player they interviewed twice at the Senior Bowl. It's not surprising, given the struggles the team has had along the line the past two seasons, and their decision to not select a single lineman since taking Lane Johnson fourth overall in 2013. People may flinch at drafting a guard at 13, but Whitehair is already being called the best guard in the draft and

a player who could step in and start, and by all accounts helped himself even more at the Senior Bowl.

Shawn Oakman, DE, Baylor
Oakman is already famous on the Internet, thanks to his 6-foot-9 frame. Born in Philadelphia, Oakman originally attended Penn State before being dismissed from the team by former coach Bill O'Brien. There's no doubt that incident will be asked about by just about every team Oakman interviews with, but the player has showed an openness to discuss it and how it changed him. The more troubling issue for Oakman might be his inconsistent play. Despite his impressive build, he had just 4.5 sacks as a senior after recording 11 as a junior. He registered two sacks in the Senior Bowl game, however.

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76ers finally showing promise

The Sixers aren't intimidated by any team this season.

ANDY JASNER
@AndyJasner
sports@metro.us

The last 17 games have given the 76ers something they were sorely lacking for much of the season: hope.

After a dreadful 1-30 start, the Sixers have won six of their last 17 games. Now, a 6-11 record isn't going to be a prelude to a parade down Broad Street. But it's a heck of a step forward after one win in their first 31 games. Their last two games showed a gritty effort in a loss at Detroit and a stirring comeback and narrow three-point defeat to the defending champion Warriors. The Sixers trailed by 24 and even by 10 with two minutes remaining before tying the game at 105. Only a dagger 3-pointer by Harrison Barnes spoiled the



Ish Smith and the Sixers are playing steady basketball of late. GETTY IMAGES

upset. At 7-41, it looks as if the Sixers won't set any sort of dubious mark this year.

There appears to be hope. In this lost season, that's saying something.

"It's huge to get some wins," said guard Nik Stauskas, who played one of his best games all season with 15 points, four assists and four rebounds against the Suns last week. "We were playing hard earlier in the season but weren't seeing the wins. I think it became a mental game for us. We're getting some wins and it feels great. It's good for our confidence, especially since we're putting the work in."

When Jerry Colangelo came aboard recently as chairman of basketball operations, pieces started to fall into place. The Sixers reacquired point guard Ish Smith and coaxed Elton Brand out of retirement to add a veteran presence on

the bench.

The Sixers clearly have miles to go, but you can see a different team than the one from the early part of the season. Yes, there will be clunkers like the ugly setback to the Celtics eight days ago.

But for the most part, the Sixers are playing with more energy. It's noticeable.

"I believe that for sure," said Smith, who nearly had a double-double with 20 points and nine assists against the Suns. "We have a team mentality here and we're here to pick each other up. We knew we had to bounce back from that bad game and we did [against the Suns]."

Smith posted impressive numbers — 16 points, nine assists, five rebounds and four steals — against the Warriors. It was yet another impressive performance by Smith and the Sixers.

"We never stopped

playing or believing in ourselves," Smith said. "We just kept playing. That's what we do."

Coach Brett Brown has remained positive through all the losses over the last two-plus seasons. It's rare when he's publicly agitated. He was visibly upset after the loss to the Celtics and didn't hide his feelings.

"I was embarrassed the other night against the Celtics," Brown said.

After their latest win against the Suns?

"I feel like there was a competitiveness and a toughness in our group that we had to have," Brown said.

The schedule won't lighten up much. The Sixers are the underdog on just about every night from here on out. They know that and understand why.

But they're playing better. They're giving the fans hope. And that's immense heading into an important offseason.

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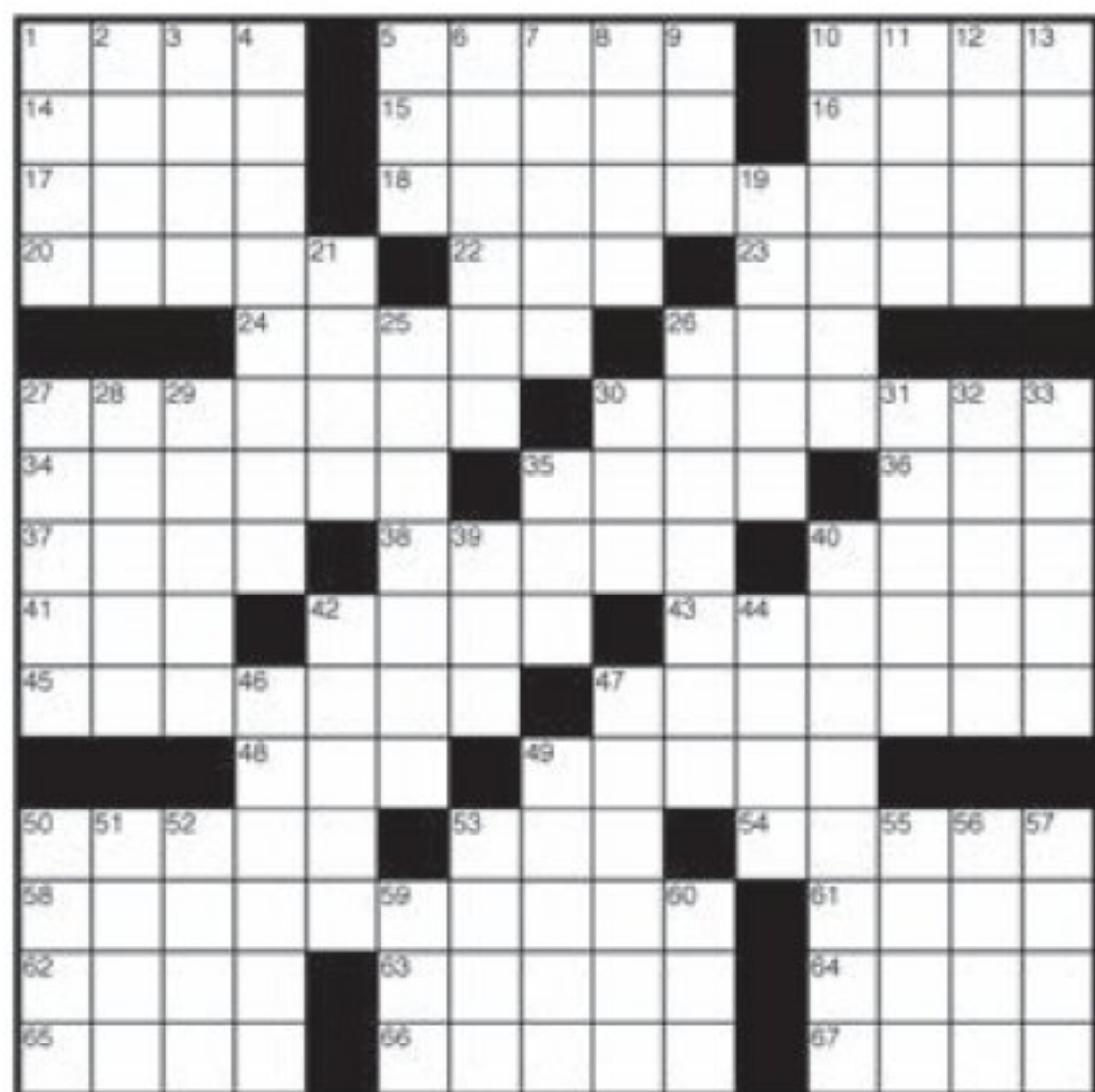
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- 36 Freud, to himself
- 37 Tach readings
- 38 Jungle charger
- 40 Salmon variety
- 41 Galleon cargo
- 42 Amble or trot
- 43 Browns lightly
- 45 Reflects
- 47 Pretentious talk
- 48 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
- 49 "— Marner"
- 50 Jim Croce's "I Got —"
- 53 Happy sighs
- 54 Milan's La --

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- 58 First aid item
- 61 Sheik's cartel
- 62 Aware of
- 63 Banana cluster
- 64 Meat-grading org.
- 65 Kind of music
- 66 Downright mean
- 67 Warty critter

Down

- 1 Musical genre
- 2 Familiar auth.
- 3 Freighter hazard
- 4 Prepares for print
- 5 Kind of lettuce
- 6 Had one's say
- 7 All uncles
- 8 Wide st.
- 9 Compass pt.

- 10 Elbowed
- 11 Jai —
- 12 Casino supply
- 13 Mouse alerts
- 19 Customary functions
- 21 Hobbling
- 25 Maserati rival
- 26 Spray can
- 27 Thurmond of South Carolina
- 28 Romantic isle
- 29 Laughing matter
- 30 Merriment
- 31 Flora and fauna
- 32 Needs an aspirin
- 33 Spook
- 35 Temper tantrum
- 39 What's- — -name
- 40 Boys' group member (2 wds.)
- 42 Bridge expert
- 44 Amo, —, amat
- 46 Force through
- 47 Split down the middle
- 49 Avoids
- 50 Lepton locale
- 51 Taboo (hyph.)
- 52 Freeway clogger
- 53 Ocean color
- 55 Lhasa —
- 56 Helen of Troy's mother
- 57 Mil. school
- 59 King — Saud
- 60 Your, old-style

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easy

						8		4
	6	8			4			
3			2	1		7		
4	8		1	3			9	
		6		2		3		
	5			9	7		4	1
		1		7	2			8
			6			5	3	
6		9						

hard

8		2			5		9	
				8		2		
3		9	2	4			5	
	5			9		6		
9								7
		6		5			8	
	8			3	6	9		4
		3		7				
	9		8			3		2

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Aries Gather information and hone your skills to suit the current job market. Avoid a run-in with someone you love. Stay focused on advancing your career.



Taurus Execute your plans systematically in order to fire up interest in what you want to do next. Celebrate your success. Romance will enhance your life.



Gemini Don't look back or give in to someone trying to take advantage of your abilities. Temptation or unrealistic offers will lead to regret and setbacks.



Cancer You can reach your goal and improve your life if you are willing to do things a little differently. Learn from those with more experience or a different perspective.



Leo Take responsibility and do what has to be done before someone complains. Avoid an argument in order to bypass an emotional and financial loss. Keep the peace.



Virgo You'll attract interest and favors from people you have worked with in the past. Enjoy your success with someone who has supported you from the beginning.



Libra Keep a low profile until you know exactly how you want to handle an emotional situation. Acting in haste will jeopardize your position, reputation and popularity.



Scorpio Share your creative ideas with someone who has something to contribute. Consider a partnership and make a proposal that offers incentives that will ensure your success.



Sagittarius Keep your secrets to yourself. Someone trying to take advantage of your skills will put you in a compromising position. Stick close to home and protect your assets.



Capricorn Express your thoughts and make a point to do something nice for the people you love. Sharing your plans as well as your success with loved ones will bring you closer together.



Aquarius Don't let your emotions take charge. Get your facts straight before you confront someone. Work on self-improvement, not trying to change others.



Pisces Your generosity will result in unexpected benefits. Your skills will be recognized, and a proposal will help you use your attributes diversely. Love is in the stars. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers



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